

FAMILY LAW SECTION

Respectfully submits the following position on:

HB 4659

The Family Law Section is not the State Bar of Michigan itself, but rather a Section which members of the State Bar choose voluntarily to join, based on common professional interest.

The position expressed is that of the Family Law Section only and is not the position of the State Bar of Michigan.

To date, the State Bar does not have a position on this matter.

The total membership of the Family Law Section is 2,481.

The position was adopted after discussion and vote at a scheduled meeting. The number of members in the decision-making body is 21. The number who voted in favor to this position was 11. The number who voted opposed to this position was 6.

Report on Public Policy Position

Name of section:

Family Law Section

Contact person:

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Bill Number:

[HB 4659](#) (Kosowski) Family law; paternity; responsible father registry; create. Amends [1978 PA 368](#) (MCL [333.1101](#) - [333.25211](#)) by adding secs. 2892, 2892a, 2892b, 2892c, 2892d & 2892e.

Date position was adopted:

June 1, 2013

Process used to take the ideological position:

Position adopted after discussion and vote at a scheduled meeting.

Number of members in the decision-making body:

21

Number who voted in favor and opposed to the position:

11 Voted for position

6 Voted against position

0 Abstained from vote

4 Did not vote

Position:

Support

Explanation of the position, including any recommended amendments:

HB 4659 creates a "Responsible Father Registry". A man who wishes to be notified of proceedings for adoption or termination of parental rights of a child he might have gathered must register with the registry. Except for men already established as the child's father through a paternity action or acknowledgment of parentage, failure to register waives the man's right to notice and operates as a denial of his interest in custody of the child. This requires fathers who are interested in the placement of their children to step up early, rather than disrupting placements at the last moment. The Family Law Section supports this bill.

The text of any legislation, court rule, or administrative regulation that is the subject of or referenced in this report.

<http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?2013-HB-4659>